

No Child Left Behind

Education of Homeless Students

Action Guide for Parents and Communities

PUBLIC
EDUCATION
NETWORK

Public involvement. Public education. Public benefit.

Overview

*Title X, Part C, Section 1031; 1032, Subtitle B, Sections 721-726; Section 1033
42 U.S.C. 11435(2).*

U.S. Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, As Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 Non-Regulatory Guidance

Federal Register, March 8, 2002

- Notice of School Enrollment Guidelines
- Homeless Children and Head Start programs
- Homeless Children and Nutrition Programs

Introduction

The McKinney Act's Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program was established by Congress in 1987 in response to reports that over 50% of homeless children were not attending school regularly. The EHCY Program provides formula grants to state educational agencies to ensure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate education, including preschool education, provided to other children and youth. State and local educational agencies receive McKinney funds to review and revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth. In 1990, the McKinney program was amended and its authorized funding level was increased to enable states to provide grants to local educational agencies for direct services to carry out the purposes of the program, and in 2001, EHCY was attached to the No Child Left Behind Act.

Recent evaluations of the EHCY program reveal that while much progress has been made in ensuring homeless children's access to education, many barriers remain (see America's Homeless Children: Will Their Future Be Different?). A 1995 national evaluation found that approximately 86% of homeless children and youth attended school regularly, a remarkable increase in school access (Anderson et al., 1995). The same study also noted that almost all states have revised laws and policies to improve access to education for homeless students, but that the remaining barriers to enrollment in school include guardianship and immunization requirements, transportation problems, and school fees. Barriers to success in school were found to include family mobility, poor health, and lack of food, clothing, and school supplies. Similarly, a 1995 survey found that shelter providers now view residency requirements as a minor barrier to school enrollment. A majority of the service providers and shelter operators surveyed, however, felt that homeless children faced difficulties in being evaluated for special education programs and services, participating in after-school events and extra-curricular activities, obtaining counseling and psychological services, and accessing before- and after-school care programs (National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, 1995).

The new version of the McKinney-Vento program includes the following:

- prohibits homeless students from being segregated from the mainstream school environment;
- requires transportation to and from the school of origin;
- requires immediate school enrollment despite pending disputes;
- ensures that the school district make decisions based on the child's "best interest"; and
- requires that the school district designate school staff to serve as local liaison for the education of the homeless.

Definition of Homeless Children and Youth

According to the Stewart B. McKinney Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11301, et seq. (1994), a person is considered homeless who "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence and has a primary night time residency that is: (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations... (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. [42 U.S.C. § 11302(a)] The term "'homeless individual' does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a state law. [42 U.S.C. § 11302(c)]

The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act includes a more comprehensive definition of homelessness. This statute states that the term 'homeless child and youth' (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence... and (B) includes: (i) children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; (ii) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; (iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, and, (iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii). McKinney-Vento Act sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2).

This may include:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, emergency or transitional shelters due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Having been abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement
- A primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and,
- Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of NCLB, see definition below)

Homeless Children and Families Facts

As the following statistics make clear, people who become homeless do not fit one general description. However, people experiencing homelessness do have certain shared basic needs, including affordable housing, adequate incomes, and health care. Some homeless people may need additional services such as mental health or drug treatment in order to remain securely housed. All of these needs must be met to prevent and to end homelessness.

- Over 1.35 million children and youth experience homelessness in a year. (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population in the United States, accounting for approximately 40 percent of those in homeless situations. (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty. (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- In 2001, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' survey of homelessness in 27 cities found that children under the age of 18 accounted for 25.3% of the urban homeless population and found that unaccompanied minors comprised 4% of the urban homeless population. (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2001).
- On a national level, approximately 39% of the homeless population are children (Urban Institute 2000).
- A 1987 Urban Institute study found that 51% of the homeless population was between the ages of 31 and 50 (Burt, 1989); other studies have found percentages of homeless persons aged 55 to 60 ranging from 2.5% to 19.4% (Institute of Medicine, 1988).
- Most studies show that single homeless adults are more likely to be male than female. In 2001, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' survey found that single men comprised 41% of the urban homeless population and single women 14% (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2003).
- In its 2003 survey of 25 American cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that families comprised 40% of the homeless population, a definite increase from previous years (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2003).
- On a national level, the Urban Institute found that approximately 39% of the homeless population is made up of children (Urban Institute 2000). These proportions are likely to be higher in rural areas; research indicates that families, single mothers, and children make up the largest group of people who are homeless in rural areas (Vissing, 1996).
- In its 2003 survey of 25 cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayor found that the homeless population was 49% African-American, 35% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, 2% Native American, and 1% Asian (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2003).
- The ethnic makeup of homeless populations varies according to geographic location. For example, people experiencing homelessness in rural areas are much more likely to be white; homelessness among Native Americans and migrant workers is also largely a rural phenomenon (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1996).
- The primary causes of homelessness among unaccompanied youth are physical and sexual abuse by a parent or guardian, neglect, parental substance abuse, and family conflict.

- (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Over forty percent of children living in homeless shelters are under the age of five. (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- The Department's FY 2000 Report to Congress indicated that 87 percent of homeless K-12 children and youth were enrolled in school. However, only 77 percent attended school regularly. Less than 16 percent of eligible preschool aged homeless children were enrolled in pre-school programs (U.S. Dept. of Education)

Barriers to Enrollment

While homeless children's access to a quality education has improved under McKinney, many obstacles to the enrollment and attendance still persist. One of the largest obstacles is the extremely limited amount of resources available to implement the McKinney Act. When Congress first passed the McKinney Act in 1987, it authorized states to receive \$50 million for the education of homeless children and youth. In the ten years since its passage, the EHCY program has yet to receive full funding. The program's FY01 funding level (\$35 million) is inadequate to meet current demands. As a result of lack of funds for the EHCY program, many states are serving only a small portion of their estimated population of homeless children. Only 3% of all local education agencies receive McKinney funds (Anderson et al., 1995). Other barriers to enrollment and access to quality public schools includes:

- Homeless youth are often prevented from enrolling in and attending school by curfew laws, liability concerns, and legal guardianship requirements (Anderson et al., 1995)
- Homeless pre-schoolers also face difficulty accessing public preschool education.
 - Two subpopulations of children who face increased barriers to education are unaccompanied homeless youth and homeless pre-schoolers.
 - According to a 1997 survey conducted by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, 30% of state coordinators estimated that few or no homeless children were enrolled in preschool.
 - In addition, 70% of all respondents (state coordinators and service providers) reported that funding was inadequate to meet the preschool needs of homeless children.
 - 80% of all respondents indicated that public preschool programs have waiting lists from less than 30 days to more than 12 months (National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, 1997).
 - Findings from a three-year Head Start Demonstration Project reveal numerous challenges in serving homeless children and their families, including recruiting and enrolling homeless families; retaining homeless families and children in project services; involving homeless parents; and meeting the unique needs of homeless children and parents (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999).
- Lack of transportation to or from temporary residence (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Lack of immunization and medical records (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Lack of school records (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- State guardianship/residency requirements not uniformly interpreted by schools (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Frequent mobility (National Coalition for the Homeless)

- Lack of staff awareness and sensitivity (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Inability to complete school assignments (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Lack of psychological services (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Poor health and inadequate medical care (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Physical needs—food, clothing, health care (National Coalition for the Homeless)
- Lack of birth certificates (National Coalition for the Homeless)

Did You Know?

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, homeless children have the right to:

- Go to school and receive the same access, special programs and services to preschool education and public education provided to other children.
- Continue in the same school they attended before becoming homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools are not allowed to delay the enrollment process.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the child's school and medical records to be transferred.
- Request and receive transportation to the same school attended before becoming homeless and to other school programs.
- Participate in school programs with non-homeless children; they cannot be separated from the regular program just because they are homeless.
- Every school district in the State is required to designate a local liaison for homeless children and youth, whether or not it receives a McKinney-Vento sub grant.

Handling Disputes

- If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:
 - The child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
 - The parent or guardian of the child shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision;
 - The child, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the designated LEA liaison that shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and,
 - In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

A Checklist of Federal Requirements

- ☐ Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the U.S. Department of Education must publish school enrollment guidelines in the Federal Register which describe successful ways in which a State may assist school districts to immediately enroll students who are homeless, and how States can review and revise State requirements on immunization, school, or medical records.
- ☐ Before the next school year that begins after the date of enactment, the U.S. Department of Education must create a public notice of the educational rights of children and youth in homeless situations and disseminate such notice nationwide and to other Federal agencies, programs, and grantees, including Head Start grantees, health care for the homeless projects, emergency food and shelter grantees, and homeless assistance programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- ☐ The U.S. Department of Education must periodically collect and disseminate data and information on the number and location of children and youth in homeless situations; the educational services they receive; the extent to which their educational needs are being met; and such other data and information as is determined to be necessary and relevant. The Department is required to coordinate data collection and dissemination with the agencies and entities that receive McKinney-Vento funds and administer McKinney-Vento programs.

A Checklist of State Requirements

Each State shall submit to the U.S. Secretary of Education a plan to provide for the education of homeless children and youths within the State that includes the following:

- ☐ A description of how homeless youth are (or will be) given the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards all students are expected to meet.
- ☐ A description of the procedures the State educational agency will use to identify such children in the State and to assess their special needs.
- ☐ A description of procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children.
- ☐ A description of programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and pupil services personnel) to heighten their awareness of specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.
- ☐ A description of procedures that ensure homeless children meet the eligibility criteria to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs.
- ☐ A description of procedures that describe how the school district will ensure that homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State.
- ☐ A description of procedures that describe how the school district will ensure that homeless youth that have been separated from the public schools are identified and given equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services.
- ☐ A description of procedures that describe how the school district will ensure that homeless youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs.
- ☐ Strategies to address any problems identified in reports provided to the Secretary or other problems regarding the education of homeless children, including problems resulting from enrollment delays.
- ☐ A demonstration that the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State have developed, and shall review and revise, policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children in schools in the State.
- ☐ How the State educational agency and local school districts will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated just because they are homeless.
- ☐ How the school districts will designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local educational agency liaison for homeless youth.
- ☐ How the State and its school districts will provide transportation at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison).

A Checklist of School District Requirements

- ☐ Implement a coordinated system for ensuring that homeless children are advised of their choice of schools, immediately enrolled in the school selected, and promptly provided necessary services, including transportation.
- ☐ Document that written notice has been provided for every child in each school.
- ☐ Prohibit schools within the agency's jurisdiction from referring, requiring, or enrolling homeless children to attend separate schools.
- ☐ Identify and remove any barriers that exist in schools within the agency's jurisdiction that may have contributed to the creation or existence of separate schools.
- ☐ Use funds to mainstream students, and not to establish new or segregated schools. Continue the child's education in the school of origin for the entire duration of homelessness.
- ☐ Enroll the child in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
- ☐ Provide a written explanation to the homeless child's parent or guardian, including a statement regarding the right to appeal if an LEA sends the child to a school other than the school of origin.
- ☐ In the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the designated homeless liaison assist in placement or enrollment decisions, consider the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provide notice to such youth of the right to appeal.
- ☐ The school selected in accordance with the law shall immediately enroll the homeless child, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.
- ☐ The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.
- ☐ If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the designated LEA liaison, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.
- ☐ Any record ordinarily kept by the school regarding each homeless child shall be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child enters a new school or school district.

A Checklist of School Requirements

- ☐ Provide written notice to the parent or guardian at the time any child seeks enrollment, and at least twice a year. The written notice must include:
 - The choice of schools homeless children and youths are eligible to attend;
 - That no homeless child or youth is required to attend a separate school for homeless children;
 - That homeless children shall be provided comparable services including transportation, educational services, and meals through school meals programs; and,
 - That homeless children cannot be stigmatized by school personnel
- ☐ Provide contact information of the local liaison for homeless children and youths and the State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths.
- ☐ Provide assistance to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth in determining the schools available to them.
- ☐ Coordinate with the local educational agency to ensure the child is provided transportation and other necessary services.
- ☐ Ensure that the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth receives all the required information in an understandable form, including in their native language, if possible.
- ☐ Demonstrate in the school's application for funds that the school is complying with the law and meeting the same Federal and State standards, regulations, and mandates as other public schools in the State, including services applicable to students with disabilities.
- ☐ The school selected in accordance with the law shall immediately enroll the homeless child, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.

Action Opportunities for Community Leaders

What homeless children need most of all is a home. While they are experiencing homelessness, however, children desperately need to remain in school. School is one of the few stable, secure places in the lives of homeless children and youth -- a place where they can acquire the skills needed to help them escape poverty.

Community leaders working with parents and the school have a critical role to play in assisting parents of homeless children and youth, and providing the community support services that homeless families and youth must have to be successful in a school environment. Just as the school district must appoint a staff person as the liaison for homeless children, community leaders should also appoint someone from their ranks to be available to help homeless parents. In addition, community leaders should build or sustain coalitions that provide families and parents with assistance such as shelters, clothing, health care, transportation, phones, job and employment help, household goods, books, and babysitting, and above all, moral support. Community leaders can do the following:

- Know the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Education Act and know what the responsibility of the state, school district and schools are in assuring homeless children and youth a successful school experience.
- Work with parent leaders and the school in advising homeless parents and students about their rights under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Become more aware of your language. Try to minimize language in your own and others' vocabularies that refers to people experiencing homelessness in derogatory ways. By using expressions such as "people experiencing homelessness" rather than labels such as "bum," "transient," or even "the homeless," we remind ourselves that people who are in such situations are still people first--just people who are going through a difficult period in their lives. In a time when they may find it difficult to hold onto their sense of humanity, it is particularly important that we do not use language that further diminishes the dignity of people in homeless situations.
- Educate your policy and political leaders. Organize site visits for political leaders and the media to visit local homeless programs to highlight ways that your community is successfully addressing the many problems associated with homelessness.
- Involve the media. Call or write the media to inform them of your concern for people experiencing homelessness in your area, and the needs of homeless students. Write editorials when important issues related to homelessness arise in your community.
- Build coalitions that advocate for homeless families, or get connected with an existing coalition. Volunteer at your local, state, or national housing or homeless advocacy coalition, or make a financial contributions to support their work.
- Contact the school and homeless education liaison to ensure that they are making informed decisions about the kinds of activities and services they are making available to homeless children and families.
- Collaborate with the school, homeless education liaison, homeless shelter, and other programs, organizations and agencies regularly to collect data and to determine the school dis-

trict's progress in meeting the needs of the homeless.

- Help in identifying homeless youth, including unaccompanied youth, such as surveys or questionnaires that can be distributed district-wide.
- Make sure that homeless parents are included in community and civic activities, and that they feel welcome in the community, as well as in the school.
- Be aware of the special needs that homeless parents have, and be recognized by homeless parents as someone they can reach out to for help. Beyond services provided by the schools, coordinate with other community organizations such as health, social services, homeless shelters, and child-care providers in meeting the needs of homeless families.
- Advocate for adequate funding at the local, state and national levels to assure adequate resources in providing education and other services for homeless children and families.
- Work with children by assisting program directors who are coordinating events such as field trips, picnics or art workshops for children staying in homeless shelters.
- Create and distribute outreach posters and materials describing the definitions of homeless and place them in shelters, campgrounds, motels, and public housing projects.
- Work with your school district to ensure that they are considering the following practices:
 - Training all school enrollment staff, counselors, social workers and principals on the legal requirements regarding the immediate enrollment provisions of the McKinney Act.
 - Review all state and school district regulations and policies to ensure that they comply with the McKinney-Vento requirements.
 - Help parents and unaccompanied youth develop affidavits of residence or other forms that replace typical proof of residency in order to eliminate barriers or delay of enrollment.
 - Work with health and school officials in establishing school-based immunization clinics or other opportunities for on-site immunizations.
 - Help homeless families and youth understand the forms they receive from the school district, and assure that they are easily accessible.
 - Work with parents leaders and the school in developing clear and accessible forms for written explanations of decisions and the right to appeal.

Action Opportunities for Parent Leaders

What homeless children need most of all is a home. While they are experiencing homelessness, however, children desperately need to remain in school. School is one of the few stable, secure places in the lives of homeless children and youth -- a place where they can acquire the skills needed to help them escape poverty.

Parent leaders in schools and of organizations have a critical role to play in assisting parents of homeless children and youth. Just as the school district must appoint a staff person as the liaison for homeless children, parent leaders should also appoint someone from the parent ranks to be available to help homeless parents. In addition, parent leaders should be responsible for including homeless parents in parent organizations, making them feel welcome, and providing special assistance. Parent leaders should do the following:

- Know the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Education Act and know what the responsibility of the state, school district and schools are in assuring homeless children and youth a successful school experience.
- Advise homeless parents and students about their rights under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Become more aware of your language. Try to minimize language in your own and others' vocabularies that refers to people experiencing homelessness in derogatory ways. By using expressions such as "people experiencing homelessness" rather than labels such as "bum," "transient," or even "the homeless," we remind ourselves that people who are in such situations are still people first—just people who are going through a difficult period in their lives. In a time when they may find it difficult to hold onto their sense of humanity, it is particularly important that we do not use language that further diminishes the dignity of people in homeless situations.
- Know who the homeless liaison is in your school district, and assure that person has the financial and staff help they required to meet the needs of homeless children.
- Make sure that homeless parents are included in school functions, PTA/parent meetings, parent-teacher meetings, and volunteer activities.
- Be aware of the special needs that homeless parents have, and be recognized by homeless parents as someone they can reach out to for help. Beyond services provided by the schools, coordinate with other community organizations such as health, social services, homeless shelters, and child-care providers in meeting the needs of homeless families.
- In working with homeless parents and families, work in coordination with the school liaison as much as possible. Being a parent, you can do much to help homeless parents feel welcome in the school, and serve as a cultural bridge between the school and the homeless parent. In the cases that schools do not know about the McKinney-Vento Act, you should bring the provisions to their attention. If the school does not comply with McKinney, you should meet with the district homeless liaison. If that does not produce action, meet with the superintendent, president/chair of the school board, and as a last resort, to the state department of education.
- Working with various sectors of the community (e.g. city/county officials, members of Congress, direct service providers, and the business community) to develop workable strategies for responding to homelessness.
- Advocate for adequate funding at the local, state and national levels to assure adequate resources in providing education and other services for homeless children and families.
- Work with children by assisting program directors that are coordinating events such as field trips, picnics or art workshops for children staying in homeless shelters. Find out if there are children who could benefit from tutors or mentors.
- In working with homeless parents and families, make sure that the school district provides the following outreach in implementing the McKinney Act:

Check to assure that homeless parents have done the following under the McKinney Act:

- ☐ Have received a written notice from their school, explaining their child's rights and the choices of schools he or she can attend.
- ☐ Have signed and returned the written notice to their child's school, acknowledging that they understand the information they has been provided by the school.
- ☐ Have contacted their child's school and/or the child's teachers, providing them with any information that may assist with the child's adjustment to new circumstances.
- ☐ Know their school district's homeless liaison, and ask that person for help in enrolling their child in a new school or arranging for their child to continue in his or her former school
- ☐ Know that their child may continue in the same school the child attended prior to becoming homeless.
- ☐ Know that their child has the right to receive the same access to school programs and services as other children.
- ☐ Know that they may request and receive transportation services.
- ☐ Know that they may enroll their child immediately without having to give a permanent address or having to wait for medical and other records to transfer.
- ☐ Know that their child may participate in school programs with non-homeless children, without being separated from the regular program.

Resources

- US Department of Education
McKinney-Vento Homeless Act Legislation:
<http://www.ed.gov/print/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg116.html>
- US Department of Education
McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, Policy Guidance
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>
- The National Alliance to End Homelessness:
<http://www.naeh.org>
- The National Low Income Housing Coalition:
<http://www.nlihc.org>
- The National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness:
<http://www.nscanh.org>
- The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty:
<http://www.nlchp.org>
- Homes for the Homeless/Institute for Children and Poverty:
<http://www.homesforthehomeless.com/hfh>
- The Better Homes Fund:
<http://thebetterhomesfund.org>

In addition, the National Center for Homeless Education (<http://www.serve.org/nche>) serves as a clearinghouse for information and resources on the educational rights of homeless children and youth. The web site contains the full text of the McKinney Act (www.serve.org/nche/SBMcKin.htm) as well as numerous educational resources. Every state has a state coordinator for the education of homeless children and youth.

To locate the coordinator in your state, see the Directory of State Contacts for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (www.nationalhomeless.org/EHCY.html).

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. *A Foot in the Schoolhouse Door: Progress and Barriers to the Education of Homeless Children*, 1995. Available for \$20.00 from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (<http://www.nlchp.org>), 918 F St., NW, Suite 412, Washington, DC 20004-1406; 202/638-2535.

Talk to children about homelessness (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/fmn2001/education.html>). For book lists, video suggestions, lesson plans, and teaching materials about homelessness, contact NCH at (202) 737-6444.

U.S. Department of Education. *Meeting the Needs of Homeless Children and Youth: A Resource for Schools and Communities*, 1997. Available, free, from the U.S. Department of Education, Compensatory Education Programs, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-6132; 1-800-879-5327.

U.S. Department of Education. *1995 Report to Congress on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth*, 1995. Available, free, from the Office of Compensatory Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 1250 Maryland Ave., SW (4400 Portals), Washington, DC 20024; 202/260-0826.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Head Start Bureau. *Serving Homeless Families: Descriptions, Effective Practices, and Lessons Learned*, 1999. Available, free, from the Head Start Publications Management Center, by email at HSPMC9@idt.net.

Our Vision

Every day, in every community, *every* child
in America benefits from a quality public education.

Our Mission

To build public demand and mobilize resources for
quality public education for *all* children through a national
constituency of local education funds and individuals.



Public involvement. Public education. Public benefit.

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